

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A computer system having a CPU, RAM and a hard disk drive further
2 comprising:
3 non-rotating temporary storage means for storing data; and
4 agent means for intercepting calls to said disk drive and directing them to
5 said non-rotating temporary storage when said disk drive is powered down,
6 in which said agent means stores the contents of said temporary storage in
7 said disk drive when said computer program is shut down.

- 1 2. A computer system according to claim 1, in which said agent copies
2 temporary files generated by said program to said temporary storage.

- 1 3. A computer system according to claim 1, in which said agent is
2 located in temporary non-rotating storage means other than RAM.

- 1 4. A computer system according to claim 1, in which said agent copies
2 data to said temporary storage and thereafter directs commands to said hard
3 disk drive to start and stop rotating, so that said hard disk drive is powered
4 down and thereafter is rotated to store data under command of said agent
5 only after an attempt to locate data in said temporary storage has failed.

- 6 5. A computer system according to claim 4, in which said agent copies
7 temporary files generated by said program to said temporary storage.

1 6. A computer system according to claim 4, in which said agent is
2 located in temporary non-rotating storage means other than RAM.

1 7. A computer system according to claim 1, in which said agent is
2 located outside an operating system.

1 8. A method for operating a computer system having a CPU, RAM, non-
2 rotating temporary storage means for storing data and a hard disk drive said
3 method comprising the steps of:
4 intercepting calls to said disk drive by an agent and directing them to said
5 non-rotating temporary storage when said disk drive is powered down, in
6 which said agent means stores the contents of said temporary storage in said
7 disk drive when said computer program is shut down.

1 9. A method according to claim 8, in which said agent copies temporary
2 files generated by said program to said temporary storage.

1 10. A method according to claim 8, in which said agent is located in
2 temporary non-rotating storage means other than RAM.

1 11. A method according to claim 8, in which said agent copies data to
2 said temporary storage and thereafter directs commands to said hard disk
3 drive to start and stop rotating, so that said hard disk drive is powered down
4 and thereafter is rotated to store data under command of said agent only
5 after an attempt to locate data in said temporary storage has failed.

1 12. A method according to claim 11, in which said agent copies
2 temporary files generated by said program to said temporary storage.

1 13. A method according to claim 11, in which said agent is located in
2 temporary non-rotating storage means other than RAM.

1 14. A method according to claim 8, in which said agent is located outside
2 an operating system.

1 15. An article of manufacture in computer readable form comprising
2 means for performing a method for operating a computer system having a
3 CPU, RAM, non-rotating temporary storage means for storing data and a
4 hard disk drive said method comprising the steps of:
5 intercepting calls to said disk drive by an agent and directing them to said
6 non-rotating temporary storage when said disk drive is powered down, in
7 which said agent means stores the contents of said temporary storage in said
8 disk drive when said computer program is shut down.

1 16. An article according to claim 15, in which said agent copies
2 temporary files generated by said program to said temporary storage.

1 17. An article according to claim 15, in which said agent is located in
2 temporary non-rotating storage means other than RAM.

1 18. A method according to claim 15, in which said agent copies data to
2 said temporary storage and thereafter directs commands to said hard disk
3 drive to start and stop rotating, so that said hard disk drive is powered down
4 and thereafter is rotated to store data under command of said agent only
5 after an attempt to locate data in said temporary storage has failed.

1 19. An article according to claim 18, in which said agent copies
2 temporary files generated by said program to said temporary storage.

1 20. An article according to claim 18, in which said agent is located in
2 temporary non-rotating storage means other than RAM.

1 21. An article according to claim 15, in which said agent is located
2 outside an operating system.